

Historic Huntley | Huntley Meadows Park

Citizenship in the Community Merit Badge

The program lasts 4 hours.

Please bring to class:

- Pework (if Scouts are unable to finish prework, they will receive partial signatures on their blue card and must come back for final signatures when the work is completed.) **All prework is due within a month after the program date.**
- Blue card, pencil, snack/drink, and Scout workbook.

Merit Badge Prerequisites

- 1) Do the following:
 - a. Attend a meeting of your city, town, or county council or school board; OR attend a municipal, county, or state court session.*
 - b. Choose one of the issues discussed at the meeting where a difference of opinions was expressed, and explain to your counselor why you agree with one opinion more than you do another one.
- 2) Choose an issue that is important to the citizens of your community; then do the following:
 - a. Find out which branch of local government is responsible for this issue.
 - b. With your counselor's and a parent's approval, interview one person from the branch of government you identified in requirement 4a. Ask what is being done about this issue and how young people can help.
 - c. Share what you have learned with your counselor.
- 3) With the approval of your counselor and a parent, watch a movie that shows how the actions of one individual or group of individuals can have a positive effect on a community. Discuss with your counselor what you learned from the movie about what it means to be a valuable and concerned member of the community.
- 4) Do the following:
 - a. Choose a charitable organization outside of Scouting that interests you and brings people in your community together to work for the good of your community.
 - b. Using a variety of resources (including newspapers, fliers and other literature, the Internet, volunteers, and employees of the organization), find out more about this organization.
 - c. With your counselor's and your parent's approval, contact the organization and find out what young people can do to help. While working on this merit badge, volunteer at least eight hours of your time for the organization. After your volunteer experience is over, discuss what you have learned with your counselor.
- 5) Develop a public presentation (such as a video, slide show, speech, digital presentation, or photo exhibit) about important and unique aspects of your community. Include information about the history, cultures, and ethnic groups of your community; its best features and popular places where people gather; and the challenges it faces. Stage your presentation in front of your merit badge counselor or a group, such as your patrol or a class at school.

*Search the following websites for public meeting options. Please be sure to investigate where and when each board meets. If you do not reside in any of these four municipalities, please choose one of the government boards in your city, town, or county:

Fairfax County:

Board of Supervisors

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/government/board/meetings/>

School Board

<http://commweb.fcps.edu/schoolboardapps/meetings.cfm>

County Courts

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/courts/>

Arlington County:

Board of Supervisors

http://arlington.granicus.com/ViewPublisher.php?view_id=2

School Board

<http://www.apsva.us/site/Default.aspx?PageID=3067>

County Courts

http://www.arlingtonva.us/departments/courts/general_district/page73688.aspx

City of Alexandria:

City Council

<http://www.alexandriava.gov/Council>

School Board

<http://www.acps.k12.va.us/board/meetings/>

City Courts

<http://alexandriava.gov/courts/>

Prince William County:

Board of Supervisors

<http://www.pwcgov.org/government/bocs/Pages/BOCS-Landing-Page.aspx>

School Board

<http://pwcs.schoolfusion.us/modules/cms/pages.phtml?pageid=183198&sessionid=7740898ec23786054d7250a99b4d23a5>

County Courts

<http://www.pwcgov.org/government/courts/Pages/default.aspx>

Please note that the numbering on the pre-work does not necessarily correspond to the numbering in the merit badge work book. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact us.

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